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seashore city of Rauma in southwestern Finland, where the skill has been preserved since the Middle Ages as an inheritance from the nuns in the city's cloister. The most magnificent products of Finnish handicraft, however, are the so-called ryijy rugs. The weaving of these has been limited to western Finland, especially in the provinces of Häme and Satakunta. The Finnish museums have several hundreds of them, and as many are found in private homes all over the country. These rugs are made of wool by the process of tying small pieces of different [386] colors next to each other to form a pattern. The women dye their wool with colors extracted from plant roots and leaves. Both the colors and the patterns give proof of a refined taste and artistic imagination. The ryijys were originally